

# MART News & Views

Fall 2012



## MART Members Respond to Hurricane Isaac



These MART members, who are also vet students, drove from Starkville to help at the Fairgrounds pet shelter.

Hurricane Isaac was a slow moving storm that made landfall at the mouth of the Mississippi River on August 28th. The storm dumped huge amounts of water in Mississippi and Louisiana causing a great deal of flooding.

The MS Board of Animal Health opened the Jackson Fairgrounds Pet Shelter to support the Red Cross shelter set up at the Jackson Coliseum. Evacuees staying in the coliseum shelter could house their pets at the Fairgrounds Pet Shelter.

Due to so few people evacuating, only seven dogs and two birds were housed at the fairgrounds; however, this served as an excellent training exercise for the MBAH and MART members.



MBAH employee, Justin Pettway, gets the shelter ready for incoming animals.

MART members also assisted at a Forrest County shelter, while others worked with national organizations in animal rescue efforts in Harrison and Pike counties.

Thanks to everyone for helping out, and doing such a great job taking care of the animals!



Debra, Fran, Kay and Jerry - all MART members - did a fantastic job caring for the animals at the Fairgrounds.

**Special thanks to Jerry for his leadership as shelter manager.**

## Dog and Cat Behavior/Handling Class Set for October

For the second year, we are pleased to work with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the National Animal Control Association (NACA) to offer a Dog and Cat Behavior/Handling course. The course will be held Saturday, October 27, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in Raymond.

Created by NACA, the course will provide students with information and hands-on techniques for handling dogs and cats safely and appropriately in *various* situations (animal shelters, animal rescue, etc.). Students will work with equipment and live animals to practice techniques learned in the classroom.

This course is perfect for MART members and the *beginning* Animal Control Officer. All students will receive a certificate of course completion; however, this is not a NACA certification class. The class fee is \$25 (MART members \$20), and class size is limited. Contact Beth Adcock at [beth@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:beth@mdac.ms.gov) for more information.

## "I Care" Car Tags Benefit MS Animals



Since the inception of the "I Care for Animals" car tag program in 2004, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health has distributed funds to 51 animal shelters and humane organizations in our state. The majority of these funds have been put toward spay/neuter programs in order to alleviate Mississippi's large homeless animal population.

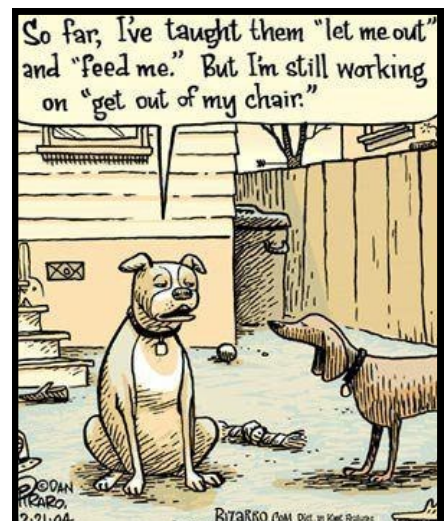
We encourage you to purchase an "I Care" tag in order to help animals all over the state. The tags can be purchased at your county tax assessors office. The additional fee for the tag is \$31, with \$25 of that fee going into the "I Care" fund. The other part of the money is for taxes, etc.

Shelters and Humane Organizations interested in applying for grant funds can find the "I Care" grant application online at [www.mbah.ms.gov](http://www.mbah.ms.gov). Contact Beth Adcock at [beth@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:beth@mdac.ms.gov) for details.

The Mississippi Board of Animal Health's latest news can be seen on Facebook.



[www.facebook.com/msboardofanimalhealth](http://www.facebook.com/msboardofanimalhealth)





## Training Bolsters Animal Rescue Skills



MART Member and Rankin County Animal Control Officer, Rebecca Goldman, took part in the large animal training.

Several Mississippi Animal Response Team members participated in trainings held in Baton Rouge, LA.

The first week's course focused on large animal handling and technical rope rescue. The second week's course offered a first-of-a-kind awareness level instruction on animal search and rescue techniques in confined spaces, structural collapse, as well as land navigation and slack water rescue training.

Course participants consisted of veterinarians, animal responders, animal control officers, and animal response team volunteers. All worked to acquire new skills to rescue animals during disaster.

**Special thanks to IFAW, The Animal Rescue Site and GreaterGood.org for donating funds to sponsor these trainings in order to improve animal rescue capability in the Gulf Region.**

State and National groups involved in the trainings included the Louisiana State Animal Response Team, the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, the Louisiana State University Fire and Emergency Training Institute, the ASPCA and the Mississippi Animal Response Team.



## Scheduling Rabies Clinics

As of May 2012, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) has taken over responsibility for supporting local Rabies Vaccination Clinics (RVC). These clinics have been jointly supported by the MBAH, MS State Department of Health (MBAH) and the MS Veterinary Medical Association since the early 1990's. However, coordination of the clinics has largely been out of the MBAH office with the rabies vaccination being sent from the MSDH since 2004.

At this time, the MBAH is able to supply all the vaccine and equipment. What remains the same is the MBAH will continue to work with local veterinarians to host low cost rabies vaccination clinics targeting animals that may not otherwise be vaccinated. **The cost for individuals is \$5.00 per animal, with \$3.00 going to the veterinarian and \$2.00 going to the MBAH to purchase additional vaccine and supplies.** If you are interested in hosting a RVC, contact Dr. Brigid Elchos at [brigid@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:brigid@mdac.ms.gov).

## MVMRC Serves as MART's Elite Team



Angela Free, Steven Davison and Samantha Vitale are all vet students at MSU. They are members of MART and the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps.

The Mississippi Animal Response Team's elite group is known as the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (MVMRC).

MVMRC members are those MART members with significant training or response experience that have shown dedicated commitment to state and local animal health, public health, and emergency management response.



The MART MVMRC is affiliated with the nationwide Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) system established and supported by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General. MRC units are typically community-based and supplement existing emergency and public health resources. More details on the MRC can be found online at [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov).

MVMRC members are offered select opportunities to attend training sponsored or promoted by the Mississippi Board of Animal Health, as well as unique opportunities to respond in Mississippi and other areas needing assistance.

## MART Members Need ICS Classes

Training is so important when working in emergency management. For this reason, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health has always required the following three Incident Command System courses be completed by MART members:

- IS-100.b – Introduction to Incident Command System
- IS-200.b – ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700.a – National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction

The following two courses are highly recommended for all MART members:

- IS-10.a – Animals in Disaster: Awareness and Preparedness
- IS-11.a – Animals in Disaster: Community Planning

Courses can be found online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. Please email your course certificates to Beth Adcock at [beth@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:beth@mdac.ms.gov).



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